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National



David Atlee Phillips

President Nixon ordered subversion or a coup in Chile, a former CIA agent says.

David Atlee Phillips, onetime CIA chief for the Western Hemisphere who resigned to campaign for the good name of the CIA, writes in his new book, "The Night Watch," that former President Richard M. Nixon ordered the CIA to take any action necessary to prevent the election of Marxist Salvador Allende as Chile's president in 1970. The order was known to Henry A. Kissinger, then head of the National Security Council, and his deputy, Gen. Alexander Haig, Phillips writes, but it was kept from Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and Secretary of State William Rogers. Richard Helms, then chief of CIA covert operations, was put in charge, Phillips writes. A coup was the recommended solution, he says, but the chances of success looked slim. In the end, nothing was done, Phillips says. In 1973, the CIA learned that a coup was imminent but did not warn the Allende government. The coup succeeded and Allende was killed.

CIA 1.04 Phillips, DAU.

~~SECRET~~ The Night Watch

CIA 4 Chile

CIA 1.01 Helms, Richard